Problems diminish record day for Crow

By TIM TREPANY
Signal sports editor

It all started out so well for Canyon Country's Rick Crow Saturday night at Saugus Speedway.

Crow, in his first season of racing in the Street Stock class, shattered a qualifying record. Crow qualified in 18.54 seconds to break John Cran's mark of 18.62 set in 1987.

But that was the only highlight for Crow.

"Then everything just deteriorated," he said.

First, the transmission in Crow's car broke in the second lap of qualifying. So he borrowed one from fellow racer Craig Rayburn, and Crow and his crew worked an hour-and-a-half to install it.

But before the oval main event, Crow's wife, Sharon, had a seizure resulting from an allergic reaction to some medication she was taking.

Crow went with Sharon and the paramedics to the hospital. Crow said she is feeling fine after being released Tuesday.

When he left the racetrack for the hospital, Crow let his crew chief, Gernt Cromsight, race the vehicle. But when Cromsight was in line to race, Saugus officials told him he couldn't replace Crow.

Officials let Cromsight cross the track to go back into the pits, so the crew chief took the opportunity to show off for the crowd by doing some donuts.

When Cromsight finally got back to the pits, an official told him they wanted to inspect the car. The car had already passed a routine inspection done whenever a record is set, but officials wanted a more thorough inspection.

Crow said the second inspection included the engine, the clutch assembly in the transmission and the lead in the fuel cell. It took until 3 in the morning, but Crow's car passed every phase.

All these events took some luster off setting the qualifying record.

Crow said crew members Cromsight and Wayne Kraft deserve credit for the mark.

"We've worked our buns off every single week. We kept trying things and trying things, and it finally paid off."

Signal file photo

Rick Crow set a qualifying record in the Street Stock class during Saturday's Saugus Speedway card. But otherwise it was a bad day for the Canyon Country resident.